

Remarks

The Office Action dated October 6, 2003 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-4, 6-14, and 16-22 are pending in this application. Claims 1-4 and 9-12 stand rejected. Claims 5-8 and 13-16 stand objected to. Claims 5 and 15 have been cancelled. Claims 17-22 are allowed.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a), a one month extension of time is submitted herewith to extend the due date of the response to the Office Action dated October 6, 2003, for the above-identified patent application from January 6, 2004, through and including February 6, 2004. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.17(a), authorization to charge a deposit account in the amount of \$110.00 to cover this extension of time request also is submitted herewith.

Submitted herewith, for approval, are six sheets of formal drawings containing Figures 1-6.

The rejection of Claims 1-4 and 9-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Roarty (US 4,736,713) is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the recitations of allowable dependent Claim 5. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is patentable over Roarty.

Claim 9 has been amended to include the recitations of allowable dependent Claim 15. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 9 is patentable over Roarty.

Claims 2-4 depend from independent Claim 1 and Claims 10-12 depend from independent Claim 9. When the recitations of dependent Claims 2-4 and 10-12 are considered in

combination with the recitations of Claims 1 and 9 respectively, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2-4 and 10-12 likewise are patentable over Roarty.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102(b) rejection of Claims 1-4 and 9-12 be withdrawn.

The objection to Claims 5-8 and 13-16 as being allowable but dependent upon a rejected base claim is respectfully traversed.

As explained above, Claim 1 has been amended to include the recitations of allowable dependent Claim 5, and Claim 9 has been amended to include the recitations of allowable dependent Claim 15. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1 and 9 are patentable over Roarty.

Claim 5 and 15 have been canceled.

Claims 6-8 depend from independent Claim 1 and Claims 13-14 and 16 depend from independent Claim 9. When the recitations of dependent Claims 6-8 and 13-14 and 16 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claims 1 and 9 respectively, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 6-8, 13-14, and 16 likewise are patentable over Roarty.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to Claims 5-8 and 13-16 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully

solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Tersillo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" written in a more compact, stylized manner and the last name "Tersillo" written more fully. The signature is positioned above a horizontal line.

Michael Tersillo
Registration No. 42,180
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600
St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740
(314) 621-5070